

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BRUSSE 01264 242108Z

ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-13 HA-05 IGA-02 EB-08

OMB-01 TRSE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 /098 W

-----123905 242111Z /64/46

P 202005Z JAN 78

FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4407

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

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USEEC

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y FOR PARA (3) ONE LINE OMITTED

E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID, XA, EEC

SUBJECT: INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS ON SOUTHERN AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT, EC HEADQUARTERS, BRUSSELS, JANUARY 15-16

REF: (A) 77 BRUSSELS 16959 (NOTAL) (B) STATE 9531 (NOTAL)

1. FOLLOWING DEPARTURE FROM BRUSSELS OF TOM QUIMBY, AID/AFR/SA (WHO MET WITH AMBASSADOR AND MISSION OFFICER BEFORE HE LEFT), MISSION OFFICER CONTACTED EC COMMISSION OFFICIALS CONCERNED WITH AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT MATTERS TO OBTAIN THEIR READOUT ON SUBJECT DISCUSSIONS. FOLLOWING INFORMATION EMERGED. IT IS CONSISTENT WITH QUIMBY'S HELPFUL DEBRIEFING TO AMBASSADOR.

2. PARTICIPATION: WE ARE INFORMED THAT, IN ADDITION TO QUIMBY, PARTICIPANTS IN THIS INFORMAL GATHERING WERE: MAURICE FOLEY, EC COMMISSION DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 02 BRUSSE 01264 242108Z

DG-VIII (DEVELOPMENT); DAVID ANDERSON, EC DELEGATE TO BOTSWANA, LESOTHO AND SWAZILAND; DENNIS GRENNAN, IN HIS CAPACITY WITH ARIEL FOUNDATION, NOT AS UNITED KINGDOM FCO OFFICIAL AND ADVISOR TO FOREIGN MINISTER OWEN ON AFRICAN AFFAIRS, ALTHOUGH HE INDICATED HE WOULD INFORM THE FOREIGN SECRETARY OF THIS MEETING; BERNARD CHIDZERO, UNCTAD DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL; AND FOLEY'S PERSONAL

ASSISTANTS, BERNARD RYELANDT AND JOHN SCOTT. CLAUDE CHEYSSON, EC COMMISSIONER FOR DEVELOPMENT, BRIEFLY ATTENDED LUNCHEON ON SECOND DAY. EVEN THOUGH PARTICIPANTS ARE PUBLIC OFFICIALS, THEY ARE CONSIDERED BY COMMISSION TO HAVE ATTENDED IN THEIR PERSONAL OR PRIVATE CAPACITIES. NO NOTES WERE TAKEN, WE ARE TOLD, SINCE DISCUSSIONS WERE ENTIRELY OFF THE RECORD.

3. PURPOSE: COMMISSION OFFICIALS STATE, AS REPORTED REF. A, THAT OBJECTIVE OF JANUARY 15-16 MEETING WAS TO: (A) HAVE AN EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT SITUATION IN ANGOLA, NAMIBIA, MOZAMBIQUE, AND RHODESIA; AND (B) DECIDE WHETHER FURTHER CONTACTS AMONG REPRESENTATIVES OF A FEW AID DONORS AND KNOWLEDGEABLE BLACK AFRICANS MIGHT BE WORTHWHILE. COMMISSION, WE ARE TOLD IS CONCERNED ABOUT CLARIFYING STATE OF KNOWLEDGE REGARDING SOUTHERN AFRICA REGION AND IDENTIFYING POTENTIALLY FRUITFUL SOURCES OF INFORMATION, WITH A VIEW TO "MAPPING FORWARD" ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IDEAS AND PRIORITIES. IN OTHER WORDS, WHILE SITUATION IN SOUTHERN AFRICA CHANGES ALMOST DAILY--AND A "MASTER DEVELOPMENT PLAN" WOULD THEREFORE BE USELESS--EXCHANGING VIEWS ON GENERAL ASSISTANCE CONCEPTS AND DISCUSSING POTENTIALLY USEFUL SOURCES OF FACTUAL INFORMATION REGARDING THE AREA MIGHT BE HELPFUL, IF ONLY ON A CONTINGENCY BASIS. IN THIS CONTEXT, FOLEY REPORTEDLY HAS IN MIND A FURTHER DISCUSSION LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 BRUSSE 01264 242108Z

IN BRUSSELS AMONG RESTRICTED GROUP (POSSIBLY TO INCLUDE A FEW REPRESENTATIVES OF PRIVATE OVERSEAS DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATIONS WITH EXPERIENCE IN AFRICA) IN ABOUT SIX WEEKS. IF THERE IS THEN A CONSENSUS TO MOVE AHEAD, A WIDER MEETING MIGHT BE CONVENED (INCLUDING SUCH OTHER DONORS AS NORDIC COUNTRIES) IN 3-4 MONTHS, ON THE MODEL OF THE "TIDEWATER" DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCES.

4. SUBSTANCE: MISSION OFFICER RECEIVED RELATIVELY LITTLE INFORMATION ABOUT JANUARY 15-16 MEETING FROM SOURCES HERE, EXCEPT THAT SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSIONS WERE INCONCLUSIVE. IN LOOKING AT FUTURE OF THE REGION, INFRASTRUCTURE, EDUCATION AND OTHER NEEDS WERE ASSESSED. IT WAS ALSO NOTED THAT WHILE AT PRESENT EC EUROPEAN DEVELOPMENT FUND AND UNITED KINGDOM REPORTEDLY HAVE LITTLE FLEXIBILITY REGARDING ADDITIONAL DEVELOPMENT AID PROGRAMMING FOR SOUTHERN AFRICA, THIS MAY NOT BE SO FOR THE UNITED STATES.

5. COMMENT: IN CONVENING THIS INFORMAL "WORKING GROUP" MISSION UNDERSTANDS THAT EC COMMISSION OBJECTIVE IS BOTH TO FACILITATE A FREE EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON SOUTHERN

AFRICAN REGION BY KNOWLEDGEABLE AID OFFICIALS AND TO
AVOID IMPRESSION OF DONORS "GANGING UP" ON AID
RECIPIENTS. HENCE, FOLEY'S CONCERN THAT PARTICIPATION
IN DISCUSSIONS SHOULD BE LIMITED AND INFORMAL. NONETHE-
LESS, IF, AS WE ARE TOLD, GOVERNMENTS MIGHT BE BROUGHT
INTO THESE DISCUSSIONS "AT A LATER DATE", MISSION
BELIEVES IT DESIRABLE THAT CONCERNED WASHINGTON AGENCIES
BE SUBSTANTIVELY INFORMED AS DISCUSSIONS HERE PROGRESS.
ALSO, WE WOULD POINT OUT THAT COMMUNITY HAS SEVERAL
POLITICAL AXES TO GRIND VIS-A-VIS BLACK SOUTHERN AFRICAN
STATES, INCLUDING DESIRE TO HAVE ON RECORD EVIDENCE OF
POSITIVE ACCOMPLISHMENTS TO HELP EC POSITION WITH
AFRICAN STATES AS BOTH SIDES PREPARE FOR LOME II NEGO-
TIATIONS BEGINNING IN SEPTEMBER. HINTON
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PAGE 04 BRUSSE 01264 242108Z

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE, MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 jan 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978BRUSSE01264
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780039-0390, D780031-0502
Format: TEL
From: BRUSSELS EEC USEEC
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780142/aaaabizo.tel
Line Count: 136
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 0d28c7e1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 BRUSSELS 16959, 78 STATE 9531
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3743387
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS ON SOUTHERN AFRICAN DEVEL- OPMENT, EC HEADQUARTERS, BRUSSELS, JANUARY 15-16
TAGS: EAID, TATT, XA, EEC
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/0d28c7e1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014